



## Thiotepa

*At the Clinical Center referred to as thiotepa (thye-oh-TEP-a).*

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**How Given:** Intravenously (by vein)

**Drug Action:** Thiotepa stops the growth of cancer cells by binding together or breaking apart the building blocks that form DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells used to make new cells.

**Side Effects:** *Common and High Dosage:*

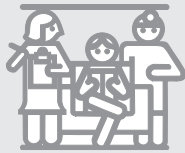
1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. These usually occur 1 to 3 weeks after treatment, but may not occur for up to 4 weeks.
2. Nausea and vomiting can occur in 6 to 12 hours after receiving thiotepa.
3. Mild headache or dizziness can occur within the first few hours after receiving thiotepa.

*High Dosage Only:*

1. Temporary hair thinning or hair loss can occur.
2. Reddened palms and feet or generalized skin darkening can occur.
3. Lip, mouth, and throat sores may occur.
4. Forgetfulness, confusion, and sleepiness may occur while receiving thiotepa.

**Special  
Instructions:**

1. Do not drive a car, operate machinery, or perform activities requiring mental alertness until you know your reaction to this drug.
2. Take anti-nausea medication on a schedule as directed even if you are not having nausea.
3. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
4. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
  - are unable to drink for more than 1 day or unable to eat for more than 2 days after treatment
  - have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that lasts for 1 hour or occurs two times in a 24-hour period
  - have any unusual bleeding or bruising



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series  
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Nursing Department

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